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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Application of: Taiichi MATSUO, et al.

Serial No.: 09/731,071

Filed: December 6, 2000

For: ELECTRONIC SETTLING SYSTEM AND  
ELECTRONIC SETTLING METHOD

**RECEIVED**

JAN 27 2003

**GROUP 3600**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 16, 2003

Sir:

Pursuant to M.P.E.P. §609 and 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97-1.99, applicant herewith submits form PTO-1449 which lists references cited in the European Search Report issued in connection with the corresponding European Application. A copy of each of the references is submitted herewith. A copy of the European Search Report is also enclosed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence and/or  
fee is being deposited with the United States  
Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope  
addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231" on January 16, 2003.  
STEINBERG & RASKIN, P.C.

BY *Ynette M. Pherson*

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists. While the term "reference" is used in citing the publication called to the Examiner's attention herein, applicant does not make any admission that each or all of them are "prior art" references within the meaning of the statutory and case law.

Applicant reserves the right to contend, where appropriate, that a reference asserted against any claim of the present application is not prior art under the facts and the law.

Applicant also reserves the right to present appropriate arguments and/or evidence to establish patentability over the reference, should it be applied against the claims of the present application.

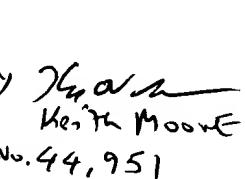
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of the first office action on the merits and therefore no fee is due for its submission.

It is respectfully requested that the references be considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

STEINBERG & RASKIN, P.C.

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Encls.  
PTO-1449  
8 References  
European Search Report